TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 25 totaled 324,697, down 4.7 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 3.5 percent below the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

The President's Day holiday was included in the February 25 week, but not in the comparable 1988 week.

Carloadings originated were down 2.0 percent in the East and 7.7 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal loadings were up 3,048 cars (2.5 percent), and loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,578 cars (13.6 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 8 weeks of 1989 totaled 2,607,970, up 0.1 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 112,189 trailers and/or containers for the week ended February 25, down 1.9 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 8 weeks of 1989 was 878,101 trailers and/or containers, up 1.0 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended February 25 totaled 18.9 billion, 4.1 percent below the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 8 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 152.5 billion ton-miles, up 1.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	29,296	34,409	-14.9 %	32,691	-10.4 %
Farm Products, Ex Grain	1,465	2,082	-29.6	1,631	-10.2
Metallic Ores	12,046	14,366	-16.1	12,499	-3.6
Coal	124,466	121,418	2.5	124,362	.1
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	10,955	12,269	-10.7	12,000	-8.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,226	10,285	-10.3	9,554	-3.4
Grain Mill Products	9,707	10,462	-7.2	10,287	-5.6
Food & Kindred Products	8,806	9,890	-11.0	9,312	-5.4
Primary Forest Products	8,734	10,928	-20.1	9,720	-10.1
Lumber & Wood Products	6,913	8,482	-18.5	6,782	1.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,697	10,972	-2.5	10,811	-1.1
Chemicals	26,754	27,138	-1.4	28,293	-5.4
Petroleum Products	4,508	4,810	-6.3	5,007	-10.0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,632	10,094	-14.5	9,490	-9.0
Coke	5,428	5,728	-5.2	5,352	1.4
Metals & Products	9,799	11,801	-17.0	9,551	2.6
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	21,514	18,936	13.6	22,113	-2.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,899	9,784	-9.0	9,621	-7.5
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	5	35	-85.7	8	-37.5
All Other Carloads	6,847	6,687	2.4	7,370	-7.1
Total	324,697	340,576	-4.7 %	336,454	-3.5 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 8 WEEKS ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	324,697	340,576	-4.7 %	2,607,970	2,605,585	.1 %
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	65,539	70,833	-7.5	519,465	540,301	-3.9
Containers	46,650	43,543	7.1	358,636	328,810	9.1
Total	112,189	114,376	-1.9	878,101	869,111	1.0
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	18.9	19.7	-4.1 %	152.5	150.6	1.3 %

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